

REMARKS

Claims 1-48 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 49-78 are now pending. Support for the new claims is found in the original claims. In addition, support for claim 50 is found on page 18, line 28. Further support for claim 63 is found on page 19, line 6. Further support for claim 72 is found on page 24, fifth paragraph.

A provisional election of Group I is made herein without traverse. Applicants' counsel appreciate the Examiner's suggestion in a phone conference of July 12, 2005 to submit an amendment which cancels claims 1-48 and adds new claims 49-78 which are essentially based on the claims of Groups I-IV. SEQ ID NOS:5 and 11 are included in SEQ ID NO:3 by way of the amino acid variations defined in SEQ ID NO:3. SEQ ID NO:7 is a transcript variant of SEQ ID NO:3 as shown in Figure 10. SEQ ID NOS:8-10 are also subsumed in the definition of SEQ ID NO:3. In addition, SEQ ID NO:12 and SEQ ID NO:5 are identical according to Figure 2D. Similarly, SEQ ID NO:2 defines the nucleic acid variations as set forth, for example, in Figure 2D. Thus, applicants have proposed claims herein which combine all of the sequences of Groups I-IV which all have at least 90% homology, as required in Group I. The new claims also exclude subject matter directed to antibodies, ribozymes, etc., in order to advance prosecution. Applicants have included in the present claims methods which depend from or otherwise include all of the subject matter of the product claims which were elected, and rejoinder thereof is respectfully requested upon allowance of the product claims.

If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 511582008100. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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